

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 22, 2002, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 54 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 8 and 17 through 30 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 9 through 16 and 31 through 46 are allowed. Claim 47 stands rejected. Claims 48 through 54 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicant has canceled claim 48, amended claims 9, 10, 12-16, 31-47, and 49-54, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant's undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on September 24, 1998, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicant's undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,011,852 to Howard

Claim 47 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,852). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 47, as amended herein, includes the limitations of dependent claim 48, indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 47 as amended also has removed the previously recited limitation of inserting and coupling at least one supplemental device to a motherboard. Claim 48 has been canceled.. Claim 47 is, therefore, believed to be allowable.

Claims 49 through 54 are allowable at least as depending from amended claim 47. It is further respectfully asserted that the limitations of claims 49 through 51, 53 and 54 are untaught by Howard and are, therefore, additionally allowable for the elements and features recited therein.

Objections to Claims 48 through 54/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 48 through 54 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 47 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 48, now canceled and claims 49 through 54 have been amended to depend from claim 47.

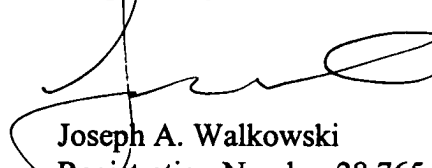
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. The amendments to the claim sets beginning respectively with independent claims 9, 31 and 39 were made for enhanced antecedent basis only, and do not surrender any prior claim scope or equivalents thereof. The amendments to claim 47 incorporate limitations from canceled claim 48 but remove the prior limitation with regard to inserting and coupling at least one supplemental device and, so, amended claim 47 is broader in some respects than previously and narrower in some respects than previously. The amendments to claims 49 through 54 are dependency changes only and to place the method in better grammatical context including the recitation of positive method steps and, so, do not surrender any prior claim scope or equivalents thereof.

CONCLUSION

Claims 9 through 16, 31 through 46, 47 and 49 through 54 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A marked-up version of the presently amended claims, highlighting the changes thereto, follows:

9. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) box, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;
a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably mounted towards a front portion of said CPU box, comprising:
a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said speaker container;
a speaker port coupled to said speaker container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said container;
a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and
an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.
10. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit [,] and further having a speaker retainer, said first [container] unit and said second unit mating in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said speaker container.

12. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker is mounted to face an interior surface of said speaker container.

13. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

14. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ a depth of said speaker container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ a height of said speaker container.

15. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker is mounted behind said port coupled to said speaker container.

16. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 9 further comprising at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said speaker container and said speaker container to said CPU box.

31. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) box configured in a tower configuration, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;
a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably mounted towards a front, bottom portion of said CPU box, comprising:
a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said speaker container;
a speaker port coupled to said speaker container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said speaker container;
a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and
an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.

32. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit [,] and further having a speaker retainer, said first [container] unit and said second unit mating in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said speaker container.

33. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 further comprising an acoustic dampening element placed on an interior surface of said speaker container.

34. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker is mounted to face an interior surface of said speaker container.

35. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

36. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ a depth of said speaker container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ a height of said speaker container.

37. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker is mounted behind said port coupled to said speaker container.

38. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 31 further comprising a at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said speaker container and said speaker container to said CPU box.

39. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) box configured in a desktop configuration, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;
a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably mounted towards a front side portion of said CPU box, comprising:
a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said speaker container;
a speaker port coupled to said speaker container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said speaker container;
a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and
an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.

40. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit [,] and further having a speaker retainer, said first [container] unit and said second unit mating in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said speaker container.

41. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 further comprising an acoustic dampening element placed on an interior surface of said speaker container.

42. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker is mounted to face an interior surface of said speaker container.

43. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

44. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ a depth of said speaker container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{4}$ a length of said speaker container.

45. (Twice Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker is mounted behind said port coupled to said speaker container.

46. (Amended) The computer system according to Claim 39 further comprising a at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said speaker container and said speaker container to said CPU box.

47. (Amended) A method of assembling a computer system comprising:
providing an enclosure to contain said computer system;
securedly inserting a motherboard having a central processing unit within said enclosure;
[securedly inserting at least one supplemental device within said enclosure and coupling
said supplemental device to said motherboard;]

securedly inserting a speaker module within said enclosure and coupling said
[supplemental device] speaker module to said motherboard, said speaker module inserting
comprising:

selecting a first half of a speaker enclosure;

placing a speaker within said first half of said speaker enclosure;

mating a second half of said speaker enclosure to said first half of said speaker enclosure

to form said speaker module; and

securing said speaker module within said speaker enclosure via a fastener.

49. (Twice Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according to
claim [48] 47 wherein said speaker module inserting [step] further comprises:

placing said speaker module in a lower front portion of said enclosure wherein said
enclosure is a tower computer case.

50. (Previously Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according
to claim [48] 47 wherein said speaker module inserting [step] further comprises:

placing said speaker module is a front side portion of said enclosure wherein said
enclosure is a desktop computer case.

51. (Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according to claim [48]
47 wherein said placing said speaker [step] further comprises orienting said speaker to be
downward firing.

52. (Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according to claim [48] 47 wherein said placing said speaker [step] further comprises orienting said speaker to be forward firing.

53. (Twice Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according to claim [48] 47 wherein said placing said speaker [step] further comprises placing a sound dampening element within said speaker module.

54. (Amended) The method of assembling a computer system according to claim [48] 47 further comprising placing a port within said speaker module.